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Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /079 W
----------063115 152221Z /64
O R 151857Z DEC 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2584
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
INFO USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNRM SHAPE
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0701

FROM US DEPREP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: OESER PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT
DEC 15, 1977 (END OF ROUND XIII)

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT MADE BY AMBASSADOR OESER (GDR DEL) AFTER FINAL (157TH) PLENARY SESSION OF ROUND THIRTEEN. TEXT OF Q'S AND A'S FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

PRESS STATEMENT
MADE BY AMBASSADOR DR. OESER, HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, ON 15 DECEMBER 1977

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

ALSO DURING THE 13TH ROUND OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS WHICH
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HAS JUST ENDED, THE SOCIALIST STATES RESOLUTELY CAME OUT IN FAVOUR OF PUTTING AN END TO THE ARMS RACE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND OF STARTING DISARMAMENT. THEIR ACTING IN VIENNA IS INSEPRABLY LINKED TO THE WORLD-WIDE ENDEAVOURS TO STRENGTHEN PEACE AND DETENTE. AT CEREMONIES HELD ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, LEADING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOCIALIST STATES EMPHASIZED THEIR PER-

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SISTENT STRIVING FOR DISARMAMENT AND THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS.

THE SOCIALIST STATES PARTICIPANTS ARE CONVINCED THAT TO
ACHIEVE PROGRESS IN THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS IS MORE THAN EVER
NECESSARY. THE PAST YEARS OF NEGOTIATING PROVE THAT IT IS
COMPLICATED TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREED TASK OF A MUTUAL REDUCTION;
AGREEMENTS ARE, HOWEVER, QUITE POSSIBLE IF ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE
GUIDED BY THE AGREED AIMS AND PRINCIPLES AND SHOW A GENUINE
WILL TO CARRY THROUGH REDUCTIONS OF THEIR OWN FORCES AND ARMA-
MENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO THOSE PERFORMED
BY OTHERS.

THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING
SOCIALIST STATES ARE EVIDENCE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE LATTER
ARE READY FOR DISARMAMENT. IF THEIR DRAFT AGREEMENT OF 8 NOV 1973
HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED, ALREADY MORE THAN 150,000 SOLDIERS TOGETHER
WITH THEIR ARMAMENTS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN REDUCED
THESE DAYS FROM THE SOCIALIST FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE-IN THE
CASE OF AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION ON WESTERN SIDE OF COURSE. THIS
REDUCTION, AS IS KNOWN, WAS TO START IN 1975 AND-BEING CARRIED
THROUGH IN THREE STATES-WAS TO INCLUDE A TOTAL OF ABOUT 17 PERCENT
OF ALL FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE TILL THE END
OF 1977.

THE ADOPTION OF THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE SOCIALIST
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STATES ON 19 FEB 1976 LIKEWISE TILL TODAY COULD HAVE LED
ALREADY TO A SIZEABLE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF THE FIRST STAGE AND
TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DETAILS OF THE SECOND STAGE.
THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY THE SOCIALIST STATES PROVE REALISM,
READINESS FOR A COMPROMISE AND FAITHFULNESS TO THE FOUNDATIONS
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AGREED UPON IN 1973. THEY PROCEED FROM AN
APPROXIMATE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM EXISTING IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND
DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CHANGE IT IN FAVOUR OF THIS OR THAT SIDE. THEY
ENVISAGE FOR EVERY PARTICIPATING STATE TO MAKE EQUIVALENT
REDUCTIONS OF ITS FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, THAT IS EQUAL
PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS. THE SOCIALIST STATES COMPLIED WITH THE
WISHES OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN MANY POINTS. IN THEIR PROPOSAL
OF 19 FEB 1976 E.G. THEY AGREED TO A REDUCTION IN TWO PHASES
PROPOSED BY THE WEST AND STATED THEIR READINESS, ON A MUTUAL
BASIS TO START REDUCING AT FIRST SOME MILITARILY IMPORTANT
KINDS OF ARMAMENTS.

IF, DESPITE THE COMPROMISE PROPOSALS BY THE SOCIALIST STATES,
NO SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS
TO THIS DAY, IT IS WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE TO BLAME FOR
IT. SO FAR THEY ARE NOT READY TO REDUCE THEIR GROUND FORCES
EFFECTIVELY AND TO REDUCE THEIR AIR FORCES AT ALL. WHILE DEMAND-

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ING TO REDUCE SOVIET FORCES IN WHOLE UNITS TOGETHER WITH THEIR
ARMAMENTS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WANT TO
REDUCE THEIR OWN FORCES ONLY IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL, AND THAT
BY ONE THIRD AS COMPARED TO THE REDUCTION OF THE FORCES OF
SOCIALIST STATES. THIS LIMITED "THINNING OUT" OF PERSONNEL
WOULD NOT DIMINISH THE FIGHTING STRENGTH OF THEIR FORCES. THE
REDUCTION OFFERED BY THE WEST OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF OBSOLETE US
NUCLEAR AMMUNITION AND OF SOME MEANS OF DELIVERY TOO, FITS IN
WITH PLANNED NATO REORGANIZATION MEASURES. IT CANNOT CONCEAL
THE FACT THAT THE WESTERN CONCEPT CONTINUES TO BE AIMED AT THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES. MORE THAN THAT, IT EVEN
ALLOWS OF AN EXTENSION OF THE COMBAT CAPABILITY OF NATO FORCES
WHILE SOVIET FORCES FORMING THE MAIN SUPPORT FOR THE DEFENCE OF

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-14
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 PRS-01
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----------114520 211100Z /10/64
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AMEMBASSY BONN
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USCINCEUR

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 0701

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FROM US DEPREP MBFR

WARSAW TREATY COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE TO BE
SUBJECTED TO CONSIDERABLE RESTRICTIONS.

THE OUTCOME ENVISAGED BY WESTERN REPS WOULD GRANT SUPREMACY
IN THE HEART OF EUROPE PARTICULARLY TO THE FRG, THE FORCES
OF WHICH CONSTITUTE ABOUT 50 PER CENT OF THE NATO GROUPING.
THE APPROXIMATE EQUILIBRIUM EXISTING IN CENTRAL EUROPE WOULD

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BE CHANGED IN FAVOUR OF NATO, AND A SUPERIORITY OF ITS FORCES
AMOUNTING TO A LEAST 150 000 MEN, BE CREATED IN THIS AREA.
SUCH AN UNDERMINING OF PARITY WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT
ON SECURITY ALL OVER EUROPE AND BEYOND.

THE ENDEAVOUR TO ACHIEVE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES MADE BY NATO
STATES ALSO IN THE 13TH ROUND, PREVENTS THE NEGOTIATIONS FROM
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ADVANCING AND COUNTERACTS DETENTE. IT OPENLY CONTRADICTS
THE COMMON NEGOTIATING TASK AND THE PURPOSE OF DISARMAMENT
NEGOTIATIONS IN GENERAL.

FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS NOW ESTERN STATES PARTICIPANTS HAVE GIVEN
NO CONSTRUCTIVE REPLY TO OUR COMPROMISE PROPOSAL OF 19 FEB 1976
ALTHOUGH IT OFFERS FAVOURABLE CHANCES FOR THE ELABORATION OF
A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT. EVEN AFTER THE PRESENTATION
IN SUMMER 1976 OF OFFICIAL DATA ON FORCES LEVELS AND THE PATIENT
DISCUSSION OF THEM, THEY REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE THE REAL SITUATION,
THE APPROXIMATE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM IN CENTRAL EUROPE. THE
SOCIALIST STATES HAVE 987 000 MEN IN THIS AREA. ACCORDING TO
WESTERN DATA, THE FORCES OF NATO STATES AMOUNT TO 981 000 MEN.
ON 25 OCTOBER THE SOCIALIST STATES SUBMITTED A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL
ON THE EXCHANGE OF ADDITIONAL DATA ON GROUND AND AIR FORCES
IN CENTRAL EUROPE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH, HOWEVER, IS BEING
DELAYED, AS IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS.
THIS PROPOSAL WAS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THEM TO CORRECT THEIR
UNREALISTIC POSITIONS.

WHILE THE NEGOTIATING TACTICS OF WESTERN STATES PARTICIPANTS
PREVENTS PROGRESS IN VIENNA, NATO STATES SPEEDILY AND IN A
DEMONSTRATIVE WAY REINFORCE THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE REDUCTION
AREA. LEADING NATO MILITARY OFFICIALS COME OUT WITH THE UNTRUTHFUL
THESIS THAT AN ARMS RACE TOO, WAS A WAY OF GUARANTEEING
STABILITY IN EUROPE. THIS OPEN JUSTIFICATION OF THE ARMS RACE
REGRETTABLY IS DIRECTLY REFLECTED AT THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONSIN
THE THESIS THAT NATO STATES HAD THE "RIGHT" TO INCREASE THEIR
FORCES AS LONG AS NO REDUCTION AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

THE AGREEMENTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN EUROPE AS WELL AS THE DOCUMENTS OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS,
HOWEVER, DEMAND A DIMINUTION OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION,
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THE STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND STABILITY. THEY DEMAND A REDUCTION
OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE ON A MUTUAL

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BASIS AND NOT THEIR INCREASE. TO SERVE THIS PURPOSE, AT LEAST
EVERYTHING THAT IS IN THE WAY OF, OR RENDERS DIFFICULT A
REDUCTION AGREEMENT HAS TO BE AVOIDED.

THE SOCIALIST DELEGATIONS, THEREFORE, IN THE LAST ROUND
REPEATED THEIR APPEAL TO IMMEDIATELY AGREE ON A JOINT DECLARA-
TION ON THE NON-INCREASE OF THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF FORCES
IN THE AREA OF FUTURE REDUCTIONS. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE
EVADING THIS PROPOSAL. THEIR DEMAND, AT FIRST TO CARRY THROUGH
AN ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTION, IN FAVOUR OF NATO, OF THE ARMED
FORCES OF THE USSR AND THE USA, PRIOR TO THE CONSENT BY WESTERN
EUROPEAN STATES AND CANADA TO A NON-INCREASE OF THEIR ARMED
FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, IS A PRECONDITION ENCOURAGING THE ARMS
RACE AND IMPAIRING MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

IN THE INTEREST OF ALL EUROPEAN PEOPLES WE, THEREFORE, DEMAND
FINALLY TO BRING ABOUT A TURNING-POINT IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. THIS
NECESSITATES,
-FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO RESPECT THE REAL SITUATION IN
CENTRAL EUROPE, THAT IS THE APPROXIMATE MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM,
AND TO GIVE UP THEIR ATTEMPTS AT CHANGING THIS PARITY AT THE
NEGOTIATIONS IN THEIR FAVOUR;
-FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO STOP REINFORCING THEIR ARMED
FORCES DURING THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, A REINFORCEMENT THAT
HAS AGAIN BEEN PROVIDED FOR BY THE DECISIONS TAKEN
AT THE NATO COUNCIL MEETING;
-FOR ALL WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF THE
SOCIALIST STATES, TO SHOW READINESS FOR AN EQUIVALENT REDUCTION
OF THEIR OWN GROUND AND AIR FORCES INCLUDING ARMAMENTS, AMONG
THEM NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

WE INSIST ON IMPLEMENTING THE AGREED FUNDAMENTALS OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS, THAT IS IN PARTICULAR,
-THE MUTUALITY AND EQUIVALENCE OF REDUCTIONS, WITHOUT
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WHICH UNDIMINISHED SECURITY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL
NOT CONTINUE TO BE BUARANTEED;
-THE STIPULATION OF THE REDUCTION AREA OF CENTRAL EUROPE WHERE
WE FIND THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS,
WHICH HAS TO BE DIMINISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE CONSOLIDATION
OF PEACE AND OF MORE STABLE RELATIONS, THE GENERAL AIRM
OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS.
WE CALL UPON WESTERN STATES PARTICIPANTS,
-TO FINALLY REPLY IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY TO OUR COMPROMISE
PROPOSAL THAT HAS BEEN ON THE NEGOTIATING TABLE SINCE FEB 1976
AND
-TO AGREE TO THE DRAFT OF A JOINT DECLARATION SUBMITTED BY US
ON THE NON-INCREASE OF THE SIZE OF ARMED FORCES FOR THE
DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.RESOR

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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To: STATE DOD
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